

# THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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## Obama starts to build support for Syria strike

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House battled Monday for congressional authorization to bomb Syria, as two top Republicans warned that a "no" vote after President Barack Obama had threatened action would be catastrophic.

Hawkish senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham emerged from an hour of talks with Obama suggesting that the White House could be mulling a wider military campaign in Syria than first thought, along with more robust support for the opposition.

Obama shocked Washington and the world on Saturday when he decided to seek support for military action in Syria from Congress, when it seemed US cruise missile strikes on President Bashar al-Assad's forces and assets were imminent.

McCain and Graham appeared to offer qualified backing for Obama's plans.

"A vote against that resolution by Congress I think would be catastrophic," said McCain.

"It would undermine the credibility of the United States of America and the president of the United States. None of us want that."

Graham warned of the wider consequences of a fail-

ure to back military action.

"I can't sell another Iraq or Afghanistan, because I don't want to," Graham said.

"(What) I can sell ... (is) that if we don't get Syria right, Iran is surely going to take the signals that we don't care about the nuclear program."

The senators also hinted at the administration's evolving strategy for Syria.

Obama has stressed that any US action, expected to include cruise missile attacks, would be "limited" and "narrow."

But McCain said he had "been given some reason to believe that very serious strikes may take place as opposed to cosmetic (ones)."

"I don't think it is an accident that the aircraft carrier is being moved over in the region."

ABC News reported Monday that the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier was moving westward toward the Red Sea, though had not yet received orders to support a strike on Syria.

Obama's plan could be to degrade President Bashar al-Assad's capabilities and upgrade those of vetted opposition groups, McCain suggested.

Continued on pg 3

## Centro di Bario Brazil celebrates Aruba's cultural heritage



The elected 'Mosa'

Every year, the Centro di Bario Brazil, the community center on the western outskirts of San Nicolas, organizes a celebration of the area's history and culture. Over the

years, they have encompassed many subjects, from personalities of the community who have attained local or international celebrity status in the performing arts and

sports, to replicating the costumes and traditions of colonial times.

This past Sunday, September 1, the community conducted their third event commemorating the tradition of when a young man came a-courtin', dressed in his finest outfit, hoping to woo a certain young lady, who likewise, donned her best finery to receive her young beau. The festivities began the week prior, as various groups conducted small skits demonstrating the drama or comedy of these eternal circumstances, and elected their 'mosa' the young lady who best represented this ideal of proper young womanhood. It may have evolved and become far more casual during modern times, but the ritual and formality of the past is regarded with quite some nostalgia for its portrayal of island society.

The Santa Rosa Center for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishing joined with Centro di Bario Brazil by conducting their monthly fair at the San Nicolas center beginning early in the morning. The day of festivities culminated in a colorful parade through Brazil to the Church Cristo Rey, and back through Cura Cubai to their center.

Community members of all ages participated in the parade for a total of 16 groups, with their elected mosa holding court.

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## Aruba Tax Bureau has issued 2013 BBV Package

The Tax Department has issued a bulletin informing clients that they will be receiving a 5 page declaration form for the months of August to December 2013 along with an explanatory guide. As of August 1st, 2013, the new law, National Ordinance regarding special Taxes on Timeshare resorts and Hotel stays have taken effect.

This new law entails that BBV (Bijzondere Belasting Verblijf) will be collected for occupancy in a timeshare resort. The length of stay is not relevant...per night...per room occupied will be charged the BBV. BBV will not apply to residents of Aruba who are registered in the Civil Registry of Aruba. Operators of timeshare resorts, hotels or other type of accommodations are obliged to collect

the BBV from the tourist. Someone renting an apartment or house to a tourist is also considered an operator. The operator must retain the BBV and pay this to the Tax Bureau no later than on the 15th of each month.

The operator must also maintain an official registry of all their guests in which relevant dates are recorded. The operator is also required to inform guests of the BBV at the time of issuing payment receipts. An operator who may not have received this information, should contact the Tax Bureau before October 1st. Failure to comply may incur a fine. For more information regarding the BBV, contact the Tax Bureau at the Camacuri office building, or visit their website at [www.siad.aw](http://www.siad.aw).

## Police Betto Winklaar promoted to First Class Inspector



This past week, the Police Chief of Aruba's Police Force presented the official governmental decree to inspector Betto "Betto" Winklaar promoting him to Inspector First Class.

Betto Winklaar began his career in the Aruba Police Force at a very young age. He entered the Police Training school at the age of 17. After completing his training, he worked the streets as a uniformed Police agent. His zeal for his work led him to become a Recherche. The better part of his work was in the San Nicolas area, although he did do some work in Oranjestad and Balashi. In 1993 he went to work in the Office of the so-called Landsrecherche where he remained for two years. He then returned to his

station in the Recherche Department.

Betto has worked from 2006 to 2010 as a member of the RST after which he returned to the Recherche department as coordinator of the Santa Cruz team. As of 2012 Betto is head of the Integrity and Safety Bureau, previously known as BIZO.

Betto's love for his work has inspired two of his own children to also become Police Officers. One is a Brigadier today and the other also Inspector First Class.

Betto's advice: respect everyone. He also admonishes high ranking colleagues to coach and guide the younger agents. He challenges new recruits to work hard, do their best and stay away from trouble.

Betto enjoys working on solving difficult cases. He believes that the success of a good recherche is his contact with the community. He was full of gratitude for all who contributed to his success and helped him over the years.

Betto thanked his wife who stood by him, and for her special patience. He shared how sometimes he would leave home in the morning not to return until the next day because of the investigation of a difficult case.

We join with family and friends of Betto and congratulate him on this important milestone in his exemplary police career.

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## Five Marriott Managers bid farewell to Aruba Marriott and say hello to the Ritz Carlton Aruba



Managers Shuraima, Altagracia, Jolitza and Hank bids farewell to the Marriott Aruba



Marriott Surf Club management together with Hank Wientjes



Last week the Aruba Marriott hosted a celebration to bid farewell to five of the managers: Altagracia Lampe, Jolitza Limonier, Shuraima

Henriquez, David Coster and Hank Wientjes who are embarking on a new adventure with the Ritz Carlton Aruba. Altagracia Lampe ac-



Accounting team saying goodbye to Jolitza

cepted the job of Human Resource Manager, Shuraima Henriquez the position of Recreation and Activities Manager, David Coster as Restaurant Manager. Hank Wientjes was promoted to Assistant Front Office Manager and Jolitza Limonier was promoted to Finance

Manager at the Ritz Carlton.

Surrounded among their teams and colleagues, the five managers received congratulations and good luck wishes. Complex General Manager Tom Calame gave a speech to thank the team for their great support over the years and the best of luck as

they move on to their next career step. Director of HR Barbara Bronswinkel and HR managers Jeslin and Terry expressed their gratitude to Altagracia, who worked at Aruba Marriott over 17 years. Director of Finance Pamela Heim shared some words about Jolitza, a great asset to the Accounting department over the years. Marriott Surf Club General Manager Joop Bangma thanked Shuraima and Hank for their dedication and work at the Marriott Aruba Vacation Club. David Coster unfortunately was not able to attend the farewell party.

The Aruba Marriott team wishes their colleagues the best of luck as they embark the brand new Ritz Carlton resort in Aruba.

## Obama starts to build support for Syria strike

Continued from pg 1

Graham indicated that the administration, which resisted arming Syrian rebels for months, may be prepared to stiffen a nascent plan -- announced after previous, small scale chemical weapons attacks -- to increase military aid to some rebel groups.

"There seems to be emerging from this administration a pretty solid plan to upgrade the opposition," Graham said, saying regional players like Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Jordan should play a key role.

Though McCain and Graham's comments would have pleased the White House, they have long supported military action against Syria so are an easier sell than many other Republicans.

Secretary of State John Kerry and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel will testify to the Senate Foreign Relations committee today in what will be one of the most high profile political set pieces in Washington in weeks.

America's top military officer, General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, will also appear.

The administration may have its work cut out for it in the Republican-run House, which includes many conservatives who have blocked Obama's agenda at home on issues like gun control and immigration reform and may relish the chance to embar-

ass him abroad.

Liberal House Democrats wary of seeing their country sucked into another prolonged engagement in the Middle East are also a cause for White House concern.

With that in mind, top administration officials including Kerry and Hagel held an unclassified briefing for House Democrats on Monday, while most of official Washington was on hiatus for the Labor Day holiday.

A senior White House official said that Kerry will also testify on Wednesday before the House Foreign Affairs committee. Classified briefings will meanwhile be offered to lawmakers throughout the week.

Obama has a limited window this week for personal politicking on Syria: he is due to leave town on Tuesday evening to visit Sweden and attend the G20 summit in Russia.

The president made calls over the weekend to individual members of Congress, as did Vice President Joe Biden.

A senior White House official said the administration would deploy all of its resources on Capitol Hill and beyond to sway opinion on the Syria vote.

On Tuesday, before leaving for Europe, Obama will meet the chairs and top opposition members of key national security committees from both the Senate and the House.



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## Centro di Barlo Brazil celebrates Aruba's cultural heritage

Continued from pg 1



Foundation Funari, which provides activities and workshops for the physically disabled brought up the rear, as gaily dressed group, the women wearing the traditional blusa (fringed blouse) and 'saya largo' (full long skirt) of colonial times in a pantheon of colors, marched through the neighborhoods.

Some chose to depict aspects of olden times, such as they way aloe was harvested and transported by hand-held carts, or made floats celebrating the legal establishment of

Papiamentu as the official language of Aruba ten years ago.

This small parade, which is growing in numbers and scope annually, was very different than Aruba's Carnival, which is all about glitter and glamour. It was a joyous cel-

ebration of island traditions and identity. The food fair conducted by Santa Rosa further showcased native cuisine and beverages, to make the day a very authentic Aruban experience.

By Rosalie Klein

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## Mr. & Mrs. Kaasch return to Aruba to celebrate their first Wedding Anniversary



Palm Beach, Aruba – Mr. Jake & Mrs. Lora Kaasch returned to the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino to celebrate their first wedding anniversary. The couple got married at the resort on May 25th of 2012 and has been in love with the island and resort ever since. Their wedding planner Ilaina Franco Franca became a close friend which is one of the

main reasons why they returned back to the resort. The lovebirds chose to stay at the hotel-within-a-hotel Tradewinds Club for a more exclusive and adults only experience for their first wedding celebration. The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino looks forward to welcome Mr. & Mrs. Kaasch for many more years.

## Steel Pan Night at Palm Beach Plaza Mall

Every Tuesday Night from 7pm - 9 pm



Nico Connor, a second generation steel pan recording artist, is one of the two performing sons of the late Edgar Connor, Aruba steel pan pioneer who obviously shared his talent with his

sons.

Nico has been surrounded by (steel pan) music and was in love with the sound from a young age, his mother Gloria Connor the great arranger of the famous invaders steel band gave him a saxophone that's still at his side but his steel pans have always had priority in any form or music.

Together with his also talented brother Lee they brought a new trade wind to steel pan music, arrangements and performing. As a steel pan performer/label owner he's always looking for the next step to add to his virtuosity groovy sounds, and expand his musical journey beyond the horizon.

The all-star band will be performing at Palm Beach Plaza Mall.

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## Weather update Aruba

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COMPILED: MONDAY SEPTEMBER 2 2013 17:00 (21:00 UTC)

WEATHER: PARTLY CLOUDY AND CHANCE OF A THUNDERSTORM.

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE 33 CENTIGRADE Y MINIMUM TEMPERATURE 27 CENTIGRADE.

SUN UP 06:29 AM SUN DOWN 06:49 PM.

WIND: MODERATE WINDS DIRECTION NORTH-EAST AVERAGE 5 KTS GUSTING UP TO 15 KTS.

GENERAL SITUATION: A TROPICAL WAVE IS IN THE EAST CARIBBEAN, AC-

COMPANIED WITH MOISTURE AND MOVING WEST.

AHEAD OF THIS TROPICAL WAVE IS MOISTURE THAT CAN INFLUENCE OUR WEATHER TUESDAY.

THE AXIS OF THIS TROPICAL WAVE WILL ENTER OUR AREA ON WEDNESDAY.

MAJORITY OF PRECIPITATION WILL BE NORTH OF THE ABC ISLANDS.

TRADEWINDS ARE DIMINISHING DUE TO DECREASE IN PRESSURE GRADIENT BETWEEN COLOMBIAN LOW AND NORTH ATLANTIC HIGH, CAUSED BY THE TROPICAL WAVE.

MARINE CONDITIONS: WAVE DIRECTION WILL BE NORTHEAST WITH WAVE-

HEIGHTS BETWEEN 3 TO 5 FEET.

TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK: NOTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE.

EXPECTATIONS FOR NEXT WEEK:

RAINFALL MORE THAN NORMAL IS EXPECTED FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

WINDS WILL BE LESS THAN NORMAL.


TEMPERATURE WILL BE NORMAL TILL WEDNESDAY AND INCREASE AFTERWARDS.

OBSERVED TEMPERATURE (CENTIGRADE) AND RAINFALL (MM) IN THE LAST 24 HOURS:

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HADICURARI MAX 31 / MIN 26 / 2.30





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## Assad warns of 'regional war' if West takes military action: report

PARIS (AFP) - Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad warned Monday that Western military strikes would risk igniting a "regional war" in the "powder keg" of the Middle East, in an interview with French newspaper Le Figaro.

He also said France would face "repercussions" if it took part in US-led plans for military action in response to an alleged chemical weapons attack by Assad's regime last month.

"The Middle East is a powder keg, and the fuse is getting shorter," Assad told the newspaper's correspondent in Damascus, in a rare interview with Western media.

"We cannot only talk about a Syrian response, but what could happen after the first strike. Nobody knows what will happen," Assad said.

"Everyone will lose control of the situation once the powder keg explodes. Chaos and extremism will spread. There is a risk of regional war."

Assad also said France, which has said it is prepared to back Washington in threatened military strikes in response to the alleged August 21 chemical attack, should consider the consequences of such action.

"Whoever works against the interests of Syria and its citizens is an enemy. The French people are not our enemy, but the policy of their state is hostile to the Syrian people," he said.

"Insofar as the policy of the French state is hostile to the Syrian people, the state will be its enemy... There will be repercussions, negative ones of course, on the interests of France."

## Brazil, Mexico summon US envoys over spy claims

BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazil and Mexico summoned US ambassadors on Monday to demand explanations over allegations that the National Security Agency spied on their presidents' communications.

Brazil's Foreign Minister Luis Figueiredo said the interception of Internet data from President Dilma Rousseff reported by US journalist Glenn Greenwald, if proven, "represents an unacceptable and unlawful violation of Brazilian sovereignty."

In Mexico, the foreign ministry said it sent a diplomatic note to Washington calling for an "exhaustive investigation" into claims that the NSA spied on President Enrique Pena Nieto and warned that, if true, the snooping would be a "violation of international rights."

The claims reported by Greenwald, who obtained secret files from NSA leaker Edward Snowden, follow allegations of widespread US electronic espionage in Latin America that angered the region's leaders.

The report emerged as Rousseff and Pena Nieto prepare to travel to Russia later this week for a Group of 20 summit during which they will see US President Barack Obama.

Rousseff is also scheduled to visit Washington in October.

Greenwald, an American who lives in Rio de Janeiro and writes for Britain's Guardian newspaper, told Globo television that the NSA tracked Rousseff's use of the Internet and accessed Pena Nieto's emails before his election last year.

Rousseff called a cabinet meeting and Figueiredo later said he told US Ambassador Thomas Shannon that his government wanted "a formal, written explanation... as soon as possible, this week."

Justice Minister Jose Eduardo Cardozo said Brazil would wait for a response "and from there examine what measures to take."

"We are in an emergency situation due to these spying allegations," presidential secretary general Gilberto Carvalho was quoted as saying by O Estado de Sao Paulo newspaper.

The US embassy in Brasilia declined to comment on the meeting and a State Department spokeswoman in Washington said she was looking into the matter.

The Mexican government later said it had summoned US Ambassador Earl Anthony Wayne but there was no immediate word on when the meeting would take place.

The Brazilian Senate plans to name a special committee on Tuesday to investigate allegations of US spying in Brazil.

Senator Ricardo Ferraco, head of the Senate foreign relations committee, denounced the US government's "lack of limits."

Greenwald told Globo on Sunday that a document dated June 2012 shows that the NSA was trying to better understand Rousseff's methods of communication and interlocutors using a program to access all Internet content the president visited online.

The NSA program allegedly allows agents to access the entire communications network of the president and her staff, including telephone, Internet and social network exchanges.

Rousseff held a working meeting to study the revelations in the Globo report, the channel said.

The June 2012 document also said that Pena Nieto's emails were being accessed,

one month before he was elected in July last year.

The NSA intercepted some of his voicemails, which included messages in which the future leader discussed the names of potential cabinet members.

In July, Greenwald co-wrote articles in O Globo newspaper revealing that the US government had a joint NSA-CIA base in Brazil to gather data on emails and calls flowing through the country.

The issue was discussed during a visit by US Secretary of State John Kerry in August, but Brazil said it was not satisfied by Washington's explanations.

Cardozo, the justice minister, met with US Vice President Joe Biden in Washington last week to discuss the matter and said the United States rejected a Brazilian offer to negotiate a bilateral agreement on surveillance.

Snowden, a former NSA contractor, is now a fugitive in Russia under temporary asylum.

He is wanted by Washington on espionage charges linked to media disclosures about US surveillance programs.

## Bollywood cuts costs as rupee crisis bites: study

MUMBAI (AFP) - Bollywood producers have long been fond of filming in exotic foreign locations, but the spiralling Indian currency has seen spending on movie sets abroad drop by one third, according to a study released Monday.

The Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) says that the amount spent on Bollywood movies outside of India in the past four months has declined by 30 to 35 percent compared with the previous four-month period.

The Indian rupee has fallen 20 percent since May, leading some filmmakers to prefer to stay and make movies in picturesque domestic locations such as the northern Kashmir and southern Kerala states, the report said.

"Spending by Indian producers to overseas locations has fallen sharply in the recent months as they are looking for cheaper options," said D.S. Rawat, secretary general at ASSOCHAM, based on their survey of nearly 50 directors.

Those still filming abroad, especially mid to low budget movies, are looking for alternatives to Europe and the United States such as Sri Lanka, Dubai and Thailand, Rawat said.

They are also reducing the amount of days they spend on the set and looking at budget accommodation options, he added. The declining rupee is just one troubling aspect of the Indian economy, which grew at 4.4 percent in the first three months of the fiscal year.

Traditionally, many Bollywood producers have opted for foreign sets. The late filmmaker Yash Chopra was especially keen on a Swiss mountain backdrop, which turned Switzerland into a popular tourist destination for well-heeled Indians.

Trade analyst and critic Komal Nahta said the falling rupee was unlikely to stop big budget films being made abroad, but "they might cut corners rather than cancel a schedule", he told AFP.



GERMANY, Wernau : A pug is seen with a jockey figure on its back during a pug and bulldog race in Wernau, southern Germany. Around 180 pugs and bulldogs participated in the event. AFP PHOTO



## International News

### British troops deny mutilating Iraq insurgents' corpses

LONDON (AFP) - British army officials on Monday dismissed "baseless rumours" that troops mutilated the bodies of dead Iraqi insurgents after a 2004 battle, as a public inquiry heard its first evidence from military witnesses.

The Al-Sweady Inquiry is investigating claims that British troops committed human rights abuses in the aftermath of a notorious firefight near the town of Majar al-Kabir, southwest Iraq, that came to be known as the "Battle of Danny Boy" after a nearby checkpoint.

Troops are accused of unlawfully killing 20 or more Iraqis at Camp Abu Naji near Majar-al-Kabir in May 2004, and ill-treating detainees there as well as later at Shaibah Logistics Base, also in southwest Iraq.

But at a hearing in London on Monday, Colonel Adam Griffiths said he had not seen any evidence to suggest that around a dozen bodies taken to Camp Abu Naji were mutilated before being returned to relatives, or that detainees had been mistreated.

He suggested that the rumours sprang from "ignorance amongst the local population as to the traumatic injuries that can be suffered in combat" as well as insurgents' efforts to discredit the US-led troops that had invaded Iraq in 2003.

Some of the bodies had bro-

ken limbs as well as gunshot wounds, Griffiths said, but he believed those injuries could have been caused by ammunition.

The colonel admitted that an order to take the bodies back to the camp was "highly unusual".

He insisted the order must have been given for good reason -- possibly to help identify a suspect in the murder of six British military policemen the year before.

Sergeant James Gadsby, who helped unload the bodies at Camp Abu Naji, also said in evidence to the hearing that the corpses appeared to have only battlefield injuries.

"I did not observe any injuries that I believe were inconsistent with having been sustained as a result of the firing of ammunition commonly used on the battlefield," he said.

Set up in 2009, the Al-Sweady Inquiry has been hearing testimony since March but until Monday only experts and Iraqi witnesses had spoken.

Up to 200 British military witnesses are set to give evidence in the coming months.

The inquiry -- named after one of the dead men, 19-year-old Hamid Al-Sweady -- is the second probe into the abuse allegations, after high court judges ruled that an earlier investigation by the Royal Military Police was inadequate.

There have been complaints in Britain over the spiralling cost of the investigation, which currently stands at £19 million (\$30 million, 22 million euros).

#### Spain detains great drain robbers

MADRID (AFP) - Spanish police said Monday they have arrested a gang of 10 bank robbers in Madrid who used the drains to enter and flee from bank branches.

The 10 were suspected of violently robbing seven banks in the Spanish capital, police said in a statement.

Four members of the gang were captured as they emerged from underground with three firearms, a crowbar and torches after committing a robbery in which they seized more than 60,000 euros (\$80,000), police said.

Officers said they detained another four suspects who were waiting outside for their fellow thieves. Two other suspects were arrested later.

"During the investigation officers found out that the gang leader was the son of a well-known bank robber who used the same method for his bank hits," the police statement said.

### Pope to investigate Poland's ritual slaughter ban



VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Francis has ordered an investigation into a Polish ban on the ritual kosher slaughter of animals, the president of the World Jewish Congress said Monday.

Ritual slaughter, including traditional Jewish kosher and Muslim halal practices, has been banned in Poland since January 1 after the country's Constitutional Court deemed it incompatible with animal-rights law.

The pope met Monday with Ronald Lauder, the president of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) -- which represents Jewish communities outside Israel -- to discuss the ban, among other issues.

The Jewish and Muslim communities each number around 20,000 to 30,000 people in Poland, a country of some 38 million people.

European Union rules on the slaughter of livestock are designed to minimise suffering for animals when they are

killed, but religious groups are exempted from a requirement that animals be stunned before death.

Kosher and halal slaughter require an animal be killed by slitting its throat.

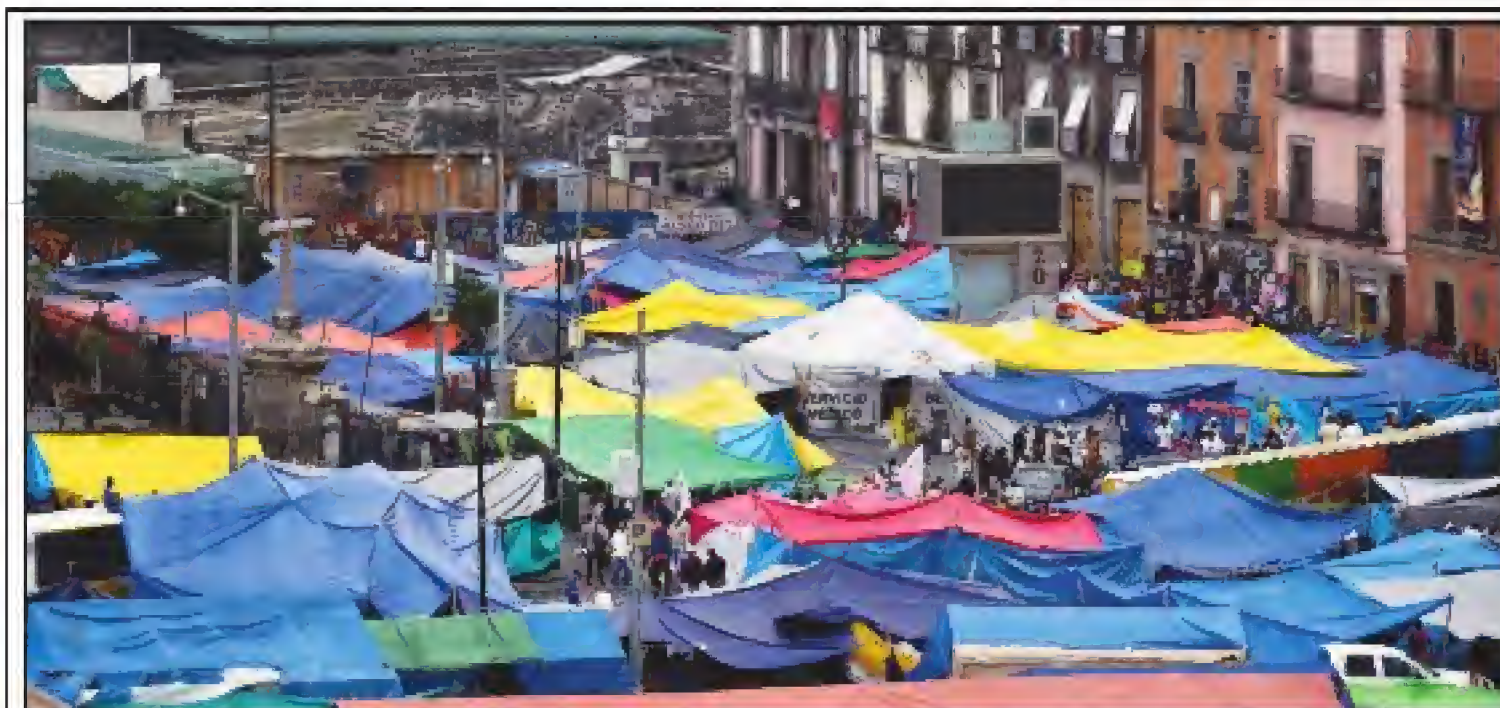
The WJC said the pope and Lauder had also discussed bans on other religious practices elsewhere in the world, including circumcision.

A regional court in Cologne in western Germany ruled last year that circumcision was a crime, drawing international criticism.

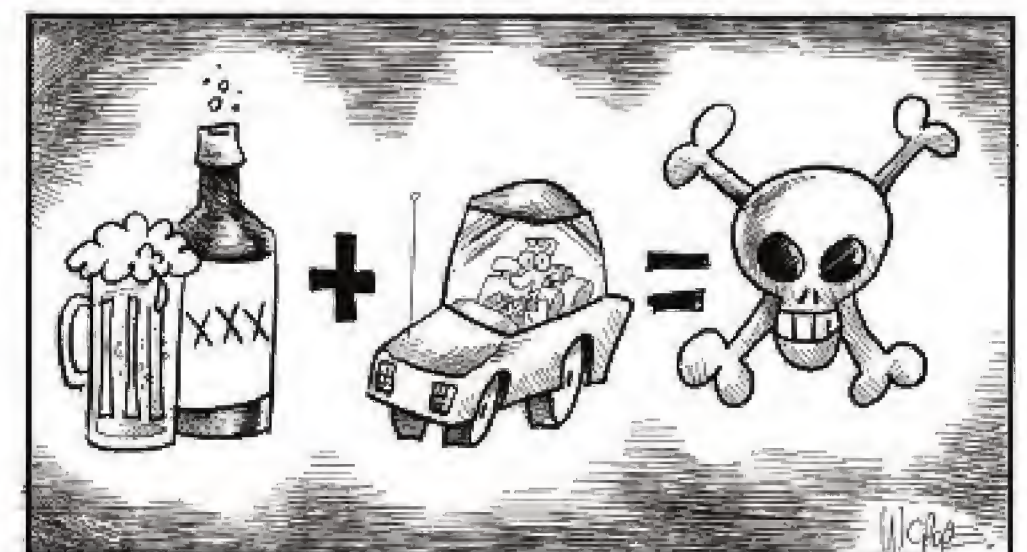
Germany's parliament has since passed a law explicitly allowing religious circumcision, clarifying the murky legal status the ruling had cast on the practice.

The WJC said the pope had expressed his opposition to restrictions on religious freedom.

According to Lauder, the pope has given fresh impetus to relations between Jews and Christians, which have "never in the past 2,000 years... been so good".



MEXICO CITY (AFP) - General view of the Zocalo of Mexico City, yesterday, while thousands of teachers camp in protest against the new education law passed by the Congress on the eve. Pena Nieto used his first state of the union address to tout the "grand transformation" of Mexico that his administration has pushed since he took office nine months ago. President's Pena Nieto's Party (PRI), which ruled Mexico for most of the 20th century and returned to the presidency in December after a 12-year hiatus, has struck a pact with rival leftist and conservative parties to pass a slew of reforms. The chamber of deputies approved late Sunday the implementation of new rules that will require teachers to undergo mandatory testing in order to get jobs and promotions, a measure that has triggered the strikes in southern Mexican states. With the economy slowing down in the first half of the year, Pena Nieto insisted that his plans to shake up the energy and banking sectors, as well as the tax system, were crucial for the country's growth.





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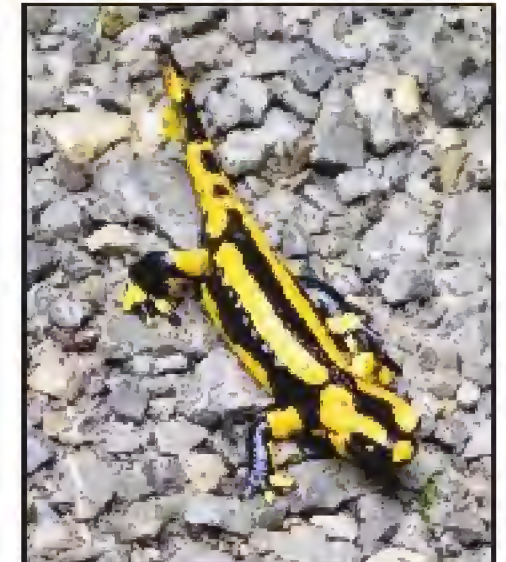
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## Sci-Tech

### New skin-eating fungus is killing Dutch salamanders



WASHINGTON (AFP) - A new kind of skin-eating fungus has been killing fire salamanders in the Netherlands at an alarming rate, European researchers said.

The boldly colored yellow and black salamanders have dwindled rapidly since 2010, with just four percent of their original population left.

Based on an analysis of the dead salamanders, scientists reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a US journal, that they have identified the cause as a fungus called *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*.

This salamander-eating fungus appears to be related to another kind -- *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, or Bd -- that is blamed for killing more than 40 percent of amphibian species in parts of Central America, Austria, Europe and North America, or decimating about 200 species worldwide.

This fungus -- which may live in water or soil, or may be a parasite -- causes a disease called chytridiomycosis, which has been lethal to some frogs but not others.

Scientists are probing whether the new fungus came in to the country from another part of the world.

Scientists said the fungus appears to pass among salamanders in direct contact, but found that it did not infect midwife toads, which can be vulnerable to chytridiomycosis.

## Japan shuts down one of two operating reactors

TOKYO (AFP) - One of Japan's two remaining working nuclear reactors was taken offline Tuesday, with the other to be shut down later this month and no restarts in sight amid public hostility to nuclear power.

Kansai Electric Power started reducing generating

power at its Unit No. 3 at the Oi plant, Fukui prefecture, western Japan, on Monday afternoon and was fully shut down early on Tuesday, a company official said.

The shutdown was aimed at allowing the operator to be ready for inspections legally mandated within 13 months of

the start of commercial operation.

The reactor is one of the only two still generating power in Japan. The other one, Unit No. 4 at Oi, is to be switched off on September 15.

It is not known when they will resume operations because they will be assessed under a

set of guidelines recently drawn up by the nuclear watchdog, according to Kansai Electric.

The two reactors were restarted -- despite public opposition -- in July last year after passing safety tests, ending a brief period in which no atomic power was generated in Japan.







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## Chemical leak in Shanghai kills 15, sickens dozens

SHANGHAI (AFP) - An ammonia leak from a cold storage unit at a food company in China's commercial hub of Shanghai killed 15 people on Saturday and sickened 26 with six in critical condition the city government said.

The accident occurred due to a leaking pipe linked to a refrigeration unit owned by a seafood company, media reports said.

More than 200 firefighters were deployed to the scene, using water to disperse the liquid ammonia and its fumes, the Xinmin Evening News said.

Liquid ammonia used in refrigeration can destroy lung tissue, potentially resulting in death, and cause chemical burns on the skin, according to the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

## PNG's 'Black Jesus' castrated after cult sacrifices

SYDNEY (AFP) - An infamous Papua New Guinea cult leader known as "Black Jesus" was castrated by an angry mob after being hacked to death for killing young girls as sacrifices, reports said Monday.

Steven Tari, a convicted rapist who was suspected of cannibalism, was killed in a remote PNG village last week, with gory details of his death emerging.

The National newspaper said he was hunted down by 80 men,

killed, castrated and then dragged with a cane tied around his neck to a shallow pit where his body was dumped.

Tari had been on the run since escaping from a prison in Madang in the Pacific nation's

east during a mass break-out with 48 others in March.

His corpse was dug up by police, prison and health workers on Friday. Juith Gawi, a doctor at Modilion Hospital, said he had multiple knife wounds.

Tari, a failed Lutheran pastor who was widely known as Black Jesus, was found guilty in 2010 of raping girls who belonged to his Christian-based sect and sentenced to up to 10 years.




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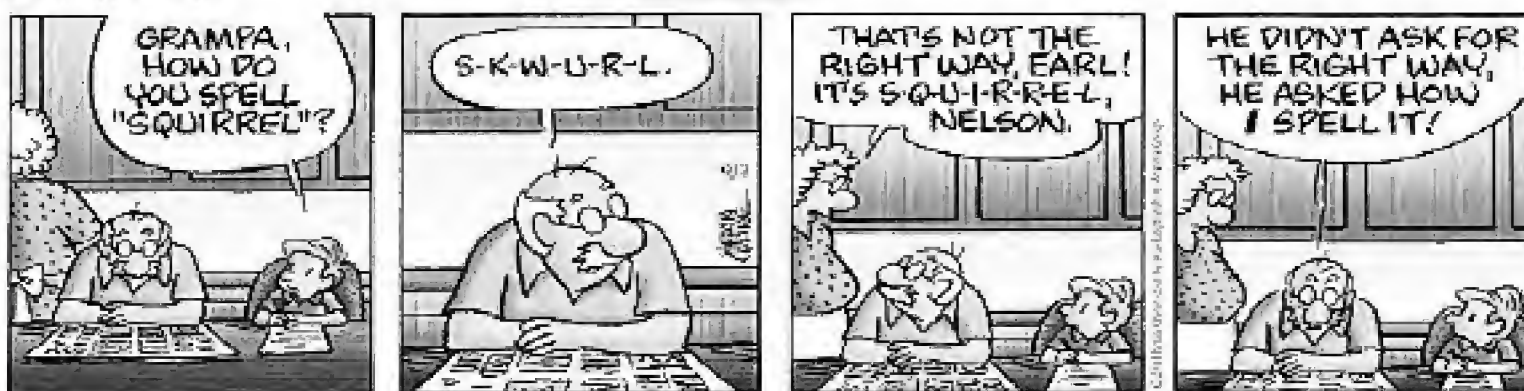


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## PICKLES



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## CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

1. Golfer Snead
4. Probability relative
8. Faucet problem
12. Greek letter
13. Frayed
14. Dwelling cost
15. Creamed corn container
16. March Madness org.
17. Actress Martinelli
18. Mistreat
20. Not tame
22. Camper's covering
24. Illuminates
28. Ulrich TV role
31. Oyster's gem
32. News legend Brokaw
33. Small fruit seed
35. "Oh, give \_\_\_ home..." (2 wds.)
36. Lamentation
39. Rampart
42. Plays the \_\_\_ (bets)
44. Blanc and Brooks
45. Banister
47. Vermont's Allen
50. Dolt
53. Shopping area
55. \_\_\_ cream
56. Tattle
57. Garfield's buddy

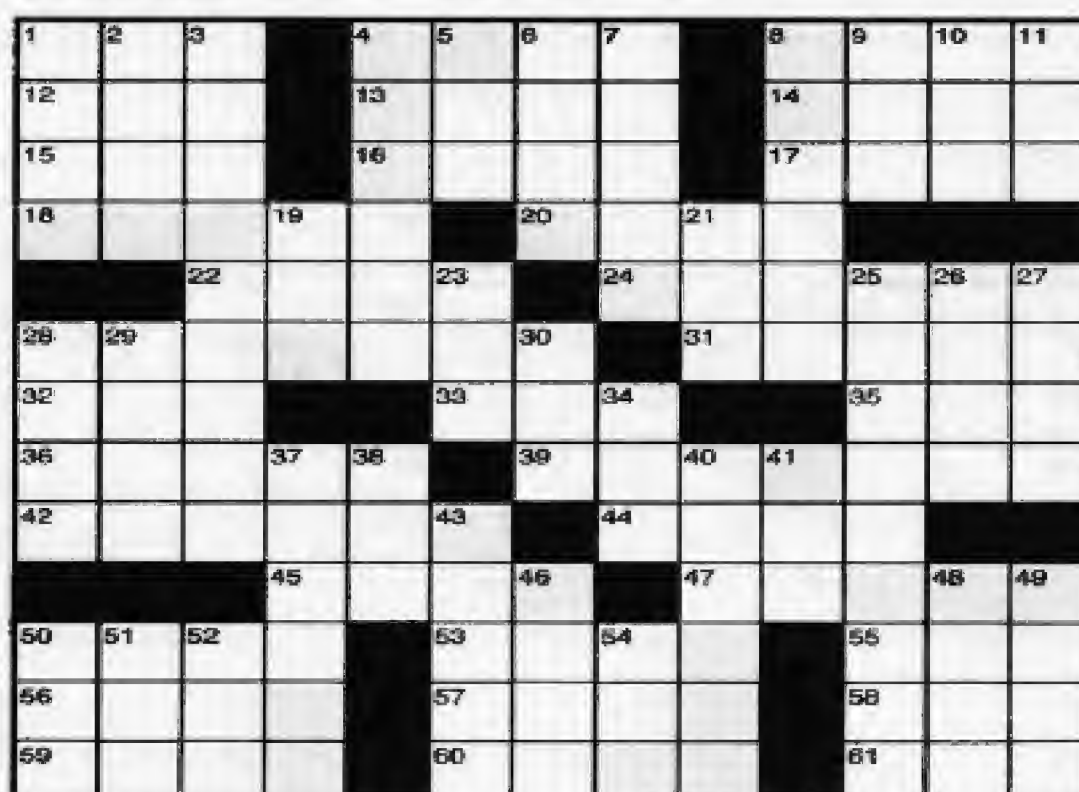
## DOWN

58. Not forward (abbr.)
59. Was carried
60. Destitution
61. Wind direction (abbr.)
1. Animal adoption org.
2. Moby Dick's nemesis
3. Some Revolutionary War soldiers
4. Deed holders
5. Medic's nickname
6. Doodle
7. Escargot
8. Scoop out lake bottom
9. Uncle or
10. Officeholders
11. Harper Valley group (abbr.)
19. \_\_\_ Antonio
21. Impertinent talk
23. Vim
25. New \_\_\_ (Nashua's state)
26. Genealogy chart
27. Blind strip
28. Short stride
29. Ralph Lauren line
30. Mender's target
34. Actress Dawber
37. Tummy flattener

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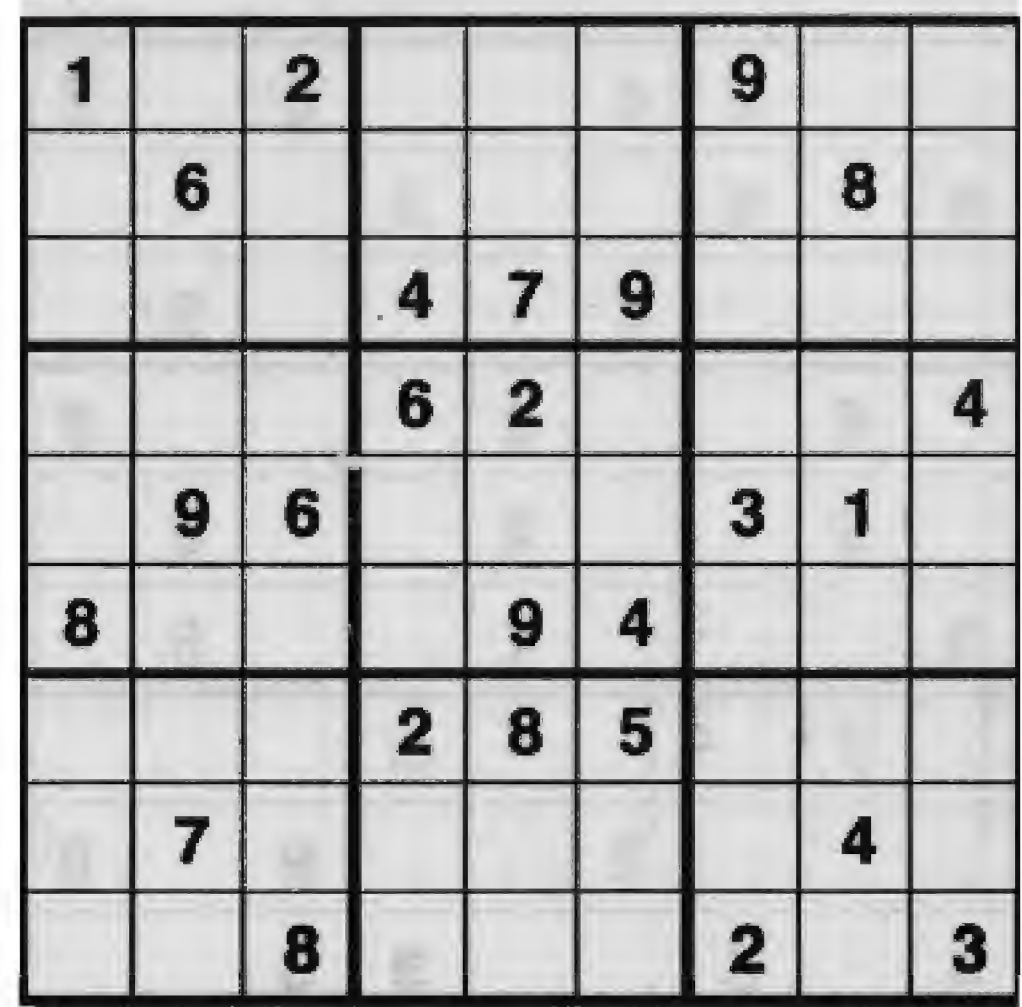
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## Sudoku



## SOLUTION



Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.





**Daily Exchange Rates**

Current as of: 09/02/2013

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.71
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.82
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	192.33
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	237.59
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.50
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	32.09
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	29.92
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	181.24

(per 10,000)

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## India manufacturing hits over 4-year low as China rebounds

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India's manufacturing shrank in August for the first time in over four years, dealing a fresh blow to efforts to boost a slumping currency, as rival China's factory activity rebounded, figures showed Monday.

HSBC's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for India, which gives a snapshot of manufacturing health, tumbled to an unexpected low of 48.5 in August from 51.1 in July, amid a fall in orders.

The PMI index is seen as a leading signal of economic momentum. A reading below 50 signals contraction while anything above suggests ex-

pansion.

The Indian data came as growth forecasts were downgraded for the country for this financial year to March 2014, amid worries Asia's third-largest economy could be on the brink of a full-blown crisis.

HSBC cut its growth forecast to four percent from 5.5 percent while investment house Nomura India reduced its projection to 4.2 percent from 5.0 percent.

The most bearish was BNP Paribas, which slashed its forecast to 3.7 percent from 5.2 percent target, saying India's "macro muddle" was nearing crisis levels.

BNP Paribas said the economy appeared to be entering a "tailspin" with business confidence collapsing under the rupee's slide, rising energy costs, tighter financial conditions and policy confusion.

The Indian government expects growth of around 5.5 percent after expansion slowed to a decade low of 5.0 percent last year.

Chinese authorities are targeting 2013 growth of 7.5 percent as they seek to shift the economy's growth engine from big-ticket investment to consumer demand.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

A	C	I	D	D	E	O	P	E	N
B	A	R	A	O	I	L	A	L	L
C	R	I	M	I	N	A	L	R	A
D	R	S	D	A	L	E	S	C	O
B	L	T	N	O	V	A			
D	E	G	R	E	E	M	A	T	E
E	R	R	A	N	D	A	B	L	E
N	A	I	V	E	D	R	E	S	S
N	O	S	H	V	E	T			
A	N	N	S	O	N	A	R	B	O
N	C	I	S	R	E	N	O	V	A
T	A	N	S	D	E	C	I	S	I
S	A	G	E	E	R	E	M	E	S

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## FINANCE

### Vodafone and Verizon in \$130 bn mega-deal

LONDON (AFP) - US telecoms giant Verizon and Vodafone announced Monday they had agreed the British company would sell out its 45-percent stake in their joint venture Verizon Wireless for \$130 billion (99 billion euros).

The blockbuster deal -- which would be one of the biggest transactions in corporate history -- would allow Vodafone to bounce back from hefty losses, pay down debt, make new acquisitions and return money to shareholders, according to analysts.

The deal also marks the group's exit from the United States market and injects several billion euros into the British economy that is struggling to lift out of the doldrums.

The company's share price jumped 3.59 percent Monday to close at 213.65 pence before the announcement the deal had been concluded, while London's FTSE 100 index rose

1.54 percent overall.

Verizon said it will pay Vodafone \$58.9 billion in cash and issue common stock currently valued at approximately \$60.2 billion, with other items accounting for the balance.

Vodafone said that it would return \$84 billion of the funds it receives back to shareholders and plough over \$9 billion into organic investments over the next three years to improve its networks and services.

Vodafone said shareholders would receive all Verizon shares and nearly 24 billion in cash "totalling US\$84.0 billion, equivalent to 112p per share and representing 71 percent of the net proceeds" from the transaction.

Vodafone Group Chairman Gerard Kleisterlee said the 000 company's investment in Verizon Wireless has created a great deal of value for shareholders and "Verizon's offer now provides us with an opportunity to realise this value at

an attractive price."

The gigantic buyout will be the second-biggest merger and acquisition deal in global corporate history, according to data firm Dealogic. The world's biggest M&A deal remains Vodafone's purchase of Germany's Mannesmann for \$172 billion including debt, in 1999.

The deal would be so big that some analysts said the effect on the British economy would be as great as the hundreds of billions of pounds injected into the British economy since 2009 by the central bank, the Bank of England.

The Verizon Wireless transaction will give US fixed-line company Verizon full control after 13 years of shared ownership.

Atif Latif, director of trading at Guardian Stockbrokers in London, said the deal would create a cash pot to fund acquisitions in Europe.

### Italy imposes tax on high-frequency trading

ROME (AFP) - Italy implemented a new tax on high-frequency trading on Monday, becoming the first country to impose a levy on an opaque and little-regulated market.

The 0.02-percent levy applies to derivatives deals lasting less than half a second and is the second part of new financial transaction taxes being imposed in Italy.

It applies to transactions involving Italian stocks or indices and is calculated based on the product's overall value.

A tax on all share transac-

tions was installed in March.

Investors have been concerned it could cut trading volumes and there have been delays with the new law because of confusion about how it would be applied.

Market operators on Monday noted that trading volumes had gone down, Il Sole 24 Ore said, adding however that it was "premature" to draw conclusions.

"The volumes on contract for difference (a type of equity derivative) with the FTSE MIB index have gone down 12 per-

cent compared to the first few hours of trading last Monday," one operator said.

The report said the estimated yearly intake from the tax is 200-250 million euros (\$264-330 million) -- lower than previous estimates -- and there could be additional costs from investor flight to avoid the tax.

Ten other European countries are preparing to introduce similar taxes on financial transactions, a prospect that has concerned experts worried about a possible wider impact on the economy.

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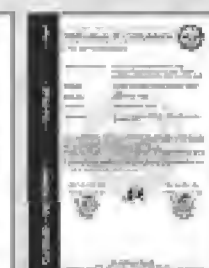
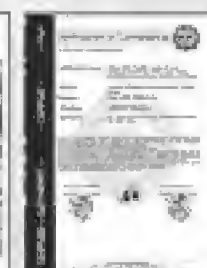
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## US, Sweden unveil \$25 mln clean water technology grant



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - The US Agency for International Development and the Swedish government announced a \$25 million grant program Monday to increase access to clean water for farming.

The Securing Water for Food program is intended to fund innovators and help their businesses take root in countries where the technology is desperately needed.

"Almost three billion people on the planet right now live in areas impacted by water scarcity," USAID Global Water Coordinator Chris Holmes told AFP.

"We want to take technology that has already proven it works and use the grant

money to overcome hurdles to get it into countries that no one has bothered or been able to get into, like Sub-Saharan Africa."

Grants were expected to range from \$250,000 to a million dollars for winning proposals.

"It is not just putting up cash; it is making a commitment that we will work closely with them to overcome obstacles in a developing country to try to build out a new technology," Holmes said.

Grants will be awarded in categories such as improving water reuse and countering intrusion of salt water into rivers, streams, deltas or underground aquifers.

"In a finite biosphere, solu-

tions to pressing water challenges require new thinking and innovative financing," Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson said in a statement.

"Through a catalytic use of aid, Securing Water for Food will be able to capture and support the implementation of innovative ideas and new technologies for better water efficiency and sustainable development."

Water scarcity affects more than 40 percent of the world's population, and approximately 70 percent of fresh water is used for agriculture, according to USAID.

"Water scarcity and its impact on food security affect everyone on the planet," said USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah.

"By harnessing the expertise and creativity of the world's brightest innovators, we can tackle this critical challenge with new thinking and partnerships."

USAID and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency will begin accepting grant proposals in early November.

## Charlie Hunnam, Dakota Johnson named for '50 Shades' film



LONDON (AFP) - The film version of erotic best-seller "Fifty Shades of Grey" will star British actor Charlie Hunnam as Christian Grey and Dakota Johnson as Anastasia Steele, the book's author E. L. James said on Monday.

The casting of the movie, to be directed by British filmmaker and artist Sam Taylor-Johnson of "Nowhere Boy" fame, has been one of the most hotly anticipated secrets in Hollywood.

But instead of big names,

the producers have gone for up-and-coming stars.

Hunnam starred in this summer's sci-fi blockbuster "Pacific Rim" while US actress and model Johnson is the daughter of veteran "Miami Vice" star Don Johnson and Oscar-nominated actress Melanie Griffith.

"I am delighted to let you know that the lovely Dakota Johnson has agreed to be our Anastasia in the film adaptation of Fifty Shades of Grey," author James said on Twitter.

About an hour later she announced: "The gorgeous and talented Charlie Hunnam will be Christian Grey in the film adaptation of Fifty Shades of Grey."

Johnson, 23, had her screen debut with her mother in the 1999 film "Crazy in Alabama". More recently she starred in the David Fincher movie "The Social Network" and the US television sitcom "Ben and Kate".

Hunnam cut his teeth in the British children's drama "Byker Grove" and appeared in the 2006 dystopian thriller "Children of Men" before his



appearance in giant-lizards-versus-robots blockbuster "Pacific Rim".

Spiced up with sado-masochism, the 2011 novel "Fifty Shades of Grey" was the first part of a trilogy about a relationship between a college graduate, Anastasia Steele, and a young business magnate, Christian Grey.

The film is due to be released on August 1, 2014.



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KOSHIGAYA (AFP) - A firefighter walks past downed electricity cables and poles along a street after a tornado tore through Koshigaya in Japan yesterday. Several dozen people were injured when a tornado ripped through parts of eastern Japan, tearing off roofs and uprooting buildings. A total of 63 people were injured and about 110 houses were totally destroyed or partly damaged in Koshigaya and surrounding areas, a spokesman for the Saitama regional police said. One of the injured was in serious condition with a fractured skull.



NEW YORK (AFP) A parade dancers performs in the West Indian Day Parade on Sunday in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. Over a million people are expected to attend the 46th annual parade.



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## 5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



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dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 8

a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.99, (\$5.48 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, with free refills on fresh coffee. A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast, home fries, with complimentary, unlimited coffee for only \$9.99! Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on, after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda,

Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aaron's secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.



5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to

watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

**5 Burgers is now open from 8am to 10pm-ish Sunday - Thursday. For those late night diners, 5 Burgers is open until 3AM-ish on Friday & Saturdays! Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches!** Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.



## SPORTS

## Tennis: Thirty for success as US Open quarters go senior



Roberta Vinci charged into the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open with a 6-4 6-2 win over fellow Italian Camila Giorgi.



Flavia Pennetta



Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia celebrates after winning

NEW YORK (AFP) - Life-long friends Roberta Vinci and Flavia Pennetta as well as Daniela Hantuchova reached the US Open quarter-finals Monday to ensure five women over the age of 30 will be in the last eight.

Vinci, the 10th seed, beat compatriot and qualifier Camila Giorgi 6-4, 6-2 to reach the quarters for a second successive year.

Pennetta, now at 33 in the world, made the last eight for a fourth time with a 6-2, 7-6 (7/3) win over Romanian 21st seed Simona Halep and will tackle childhood friend Vinci with a place in a major semi-final for the first time at stake.

Slovakia's Hantuchova, who last made the quarter-finals as a teenager in 2002, saw off American wildcard Alison Riske 6-3,

5-7, 6-2 on the back of 15 aces and 46 winners.

Monday's events were hard luck on Halep, who came into the tournament having won four titles on the tour this year. She was hoping to be the first Romanian in the quarter-finals since Irina Spirlea in 1997.

The 30-year-old Hantuchova, now down at 48 in the world after being as high as five in 2002, will face either world number two Victoria Azarenka or Serbian 13th seed Ana Ivanovic for a place in the semi-finals.

Vinci, Pennetta and Hantuchova joined Serena Williams and Li Na as the players over 30 in the quarter-finals -- the most in the Open era since five also made the Australian Open last eight in 1977.



## Arsenal break bank for Germany star Ozil

LONDON (AFP) - Arsenal on Monday shattered their transfer record to sign Germany attacking midfielder Mesut Ozil from Real Madrid in a deal reportedly worth £42.4 million (\$66 million, 50 million euros).

The deal was completed in the final hours of transfer deadline day, and came a day after Madrid signed Gareth Bale from Arsenal's arch rivals Tottenham Hotspur for a reported world-record fee in excess of £80 million.

Ozil's arrival represents a huge coup for Wenger, who has come under unprecedented pressure from the club's fans to sign new players during the current transfer window.

Traditionally reluctant to spend money, Wenger had only signed 20-year-old French forward Yana Sanogo from Auxerre and brought Mathieu Flamini back to the club following a spell at AC Milan prior to Ozil's arrival.

Amid an ongoing eight-year trophy drought, it fuelled accusations that the club lacked ambition, especially after the successive departures of Samir Nasri, Cesc Fabregas and Robin van Persie over the last two years.

## Formula One: Red Bull appoint Ricciardo as Webber's successor



VIENNA (AFP) - Australian Daniel Ricciardo was on Monday named as Mark Webber's successor alongside triple world champion Sebastian Vettel at Red Bull in 2014.

The 24-year-old Toro Rosso driver won the race for the coveted drive ahead of former world champion Kimi Raikkonen, with talks between the Finn and Red Bull ending last month.

Red Bull team chief Christian Horner announced the Perth-born Ricciardo's arrival next season in a statement.

He said: "It's fantastic to confirm Daniel as the team's race driver for 2014."

"He's a very talented youngster, he's committed, he's got a great attitude and in the end it was a very logical choice for us to choose Daniel."

Horner added: "He's got all the attributes that are required

to drive for our team: he's got a great natural ability, he's a good personality and a great guy to work with."

Ricciardo has been sponsored by Red Bull since 2008 and he started driving for Toro Rosso last year, claiming 22 Formula One points from 42 Grand Prix races.

The Australian is following the path Vettel took in 2009 when he switched from Italy's Toro Rosso to their British-based sister team Red Bull Racing.

The new Red Bull man's best result was this season's seventh place in China.

Webber, 37, is leaving F1 to pursue a new career in sports-car racing with Porsche.

Vettel leads the 2013 drivers' championship on 197 points with Webber placed fifth on 115 and Ricciardo in 14th with 12 points.





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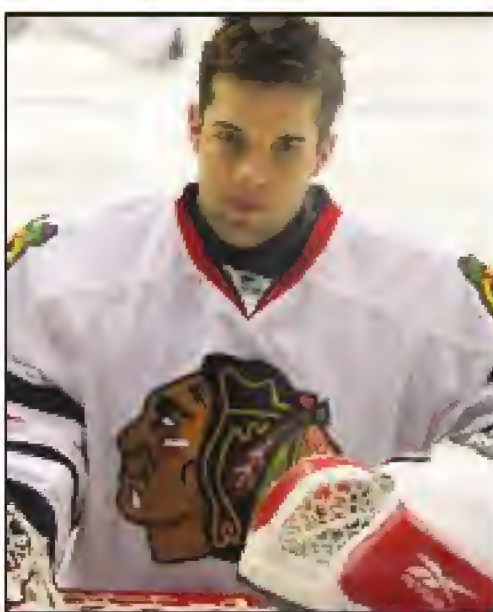
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## NHL: Goalie Crawford inks six-year deal with Blackhawks

CHICAGO (AFP) - Goal-tender Corey Crawford agreed to terms on a six-year contract extension to remain with the Stanley Cup champion Chicago Blackhawks, the National Hockey League club announced Monday.

The deal, reportedly worth \$36 million, will keep the 28-year-old Canadian with the club until the end of the 2019-2020 season.

Crawford went 16-7 record with one shutout, an NHL-best 1.84 goals-against average and a .932 save percentage in 23 playoff games for the Blackhawks and went 19-5-5 with three shutouts and a 1.94 goals-against average during



the season.

Over 152 career games, the Montreal native is 83-43-19

with eight shutouts, a 2.40 goals-against average and a .913 save percentage.

The announcement came on the day Crawford toured Montreal with the Stanley Cup, a tradition where each player is allowed a day to spend with the championship trophy as he chooses.

The Blackhawks, who won their second title in four years back in June, have one more season with Crawford under a three-year deal he signed in 2011.

## US woman, 64, makes history.. continued from page 16



In a display of endurance and spirit, Nyad had actually increased her average speed to 1.76 miles per hour Sunday after more than 24 hours in the water.

When necessary, Nyad wore a full-body suit. She also had a specially designed prosthetic face mask as well as gloves and shoes at her disposal to protect herself from jellyfish stings.

A year ago, Nyad ended her fourth bid to cross the stretch after battling lightning storms and blooms of jellyfish for more than two days.

Her first attempt was in 1978, when she was 28.

Nyad set an open sea record for both men and women by

swimming from the Bahamas to the Florida Keys in 1979 -- a journey that is about the same distance as the Cuba-Florida swim, but which she has described as far less dangerous.

At a news conference on Friday, the veteran expressed confidence that she would persevere this time around.

She said her dream of 35 years also sought to bring communist Cuba and the United States -- which have been at odds for decades -- closer together.

Australian Susan Maroney was the first person to swim across the Florida Straits. Protected by a shark cage, she did so in 1997 when she was 22.

## Boxing: Ex-heavyweight champ Morrison dead at 44



TULSA (AFP) - Former world heavyweight boxing champion Tommy Morrison, who was diagnosed with the HIV virus that causes AIDS in 1996, has died, the Tulsa World reported on Monday. He was 44. Tony Holden, Morrison's former promoter, told the newspaper that the fighter, who appeared in the fifth Rocky film as the main rival for Sylvester Stallone's fictional fighter, died on Sunday night in Omaha, Nebraska. A cause of death has not been revealed by the family or authorities. Morrison, an Oklahoma native, won a 12-round decision over a 44-year-old George Foreman to claim the World Boxing Organization heavyweight title in 1993 but lost the crown four months later. In 1996, just before Morrison was to have fought in Las Vegas, he was suspended after testing positive for HIV. Morrison finished his career 48-3 with one drawn and 42 knockouts.

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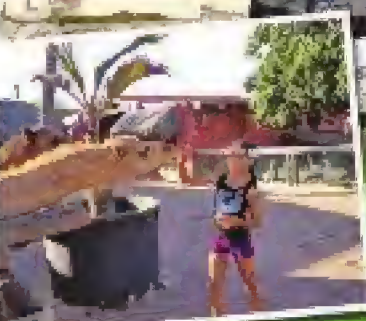




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## US woman, 64, makes history with Cuba-Florida swim

MIAMI (AFP) - Diana Nyad swam into the history books Monday, completing a marathon three-day crossing from Cuba to Florida to become the first person to do so without a protective shark cage.

The 64-year-old American, who left a Havana yacht club early Saturday, arrived on a Key West beach to realize her lifetime quest after four previous attempts failed amid stormy weather and jellyfish attacks.

Initially, the veteran swim-

mer had hoped to complete the treacherous 100-mile (160-kilometer) trek in 80 hours. But in the end, she did it in 52 hours, 54 minutes and 18.6 seconds, according to her Facebook page.

Nyad's pursuit was followed closely by people around the globe, who took to social media to first encourage and then congratulate her.

Even the White House, pre-occupied with the conflict in Syria, tweeted on behalf of President Barack Obama: "Congratulations to @di-



ananyad. Never give up on your dreams."

But challenges loomed large during the historic crossing --

especially on the homestretch.

Doctors -- monitoring Nyad from support boats shadowing her -- reported early Monday that her tongue and lips were so swollen that her speech had become slurred.

She also experienced extreme cold overnight, they said.

As Nyad approached Key West, large jellyfish appeared in her path. To keep her from suffering a debilitating sting, divers swam ahead of Nyad looking for more.

*continues on page 15*